

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 202217

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 8525 ACTION SECSTATE 22 AUG 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 8525

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MNUC, IK, FR

SUBJECT: REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN

REF: PARIS 22983

1. DEPARTMENT IS NO DOUBT WRESTLING WITH INTRICATE
RAMIFICATIONS OF FRENCH PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTTEL.

2. UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MUCH, I AM ALSO UNABLE TO REST IN
PATIENT QUIETUDE. HENCE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

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A. ON KNOTTY PROBLEM OF USG FUNDING OF CONTRIBUTION TO
DEFRAY EXTRA COSTS OF MODIFIED PLANT, I HOPE WASHINGTON IS
INCLUDING IN ITS DELIBERATIONS THE LAST-RESORT POSSIBILITY
OF AUGMENTING AMOUNTS AND TERMS OF US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
AS COMPENSATION TO GOP.

B. IN JUST A LITTLE OVER TWO WEEKS, GOP'S DE FACTO FONMIN AGHA SHAHI WILL RECEIVE FRENCH PROPOSAL IN PARIS AND PRESUMBLY WILL RETURN POSTHAST TO ISLAMABAD ABOUT SEPTEMBER 10. AS DE GUIRINGAUD SUGGESTS, I SHOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROACH GOP PROMPTLY TO CONVEY USG VIEWS. PRESENTATION COULD INCLUDE THESE POINTS:

-- FRENCH HAVE TOLD US OF PROPOSAL MADE TO AGHA SHAHI. FROM USG POINT OF VIEW PROPOSAL SEEMS TO MEET GOP DESIRE FOR A REPROCESSING FACILITY THAT SUPPORTS PAKISTAN'S POWER REACTORS.

-- PROPOSAL IS ALSO IN LINE WITH DESIRES OF ALL NUCLEAR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES TO CURTAIL WORLD-WIDE USE OF METALLIC PLUTONIUM, AND TO AVOID CREATING PRECEDENT IN PAKISTAN THAT OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT WISH TO FOLLOW.

-- WE KNOW THERE ARE ADDITIONAL COSTS INVOLVED, AND AS PART OF OUR NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORT, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP COVER THOSE SUPPLEMENTARY COSTS;

-- GOP ACCEPTANCE OF THE FRENCH OFFER WOULD ENABLE US TO AVOID APPLICATION OF US LEGISLATIVE SANCTIONS;

-- THEREFORE, IF THE GOP AND GOF GO AHEAD WITH THE REVISED PROPOSAL, WE COULD LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR CLOSE AND BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP, AND, IN GENERAL, THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CORDIAL TIES THAT HAVE MARKED US-PAK RELATIONS.

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C. AGHA SHAHI WILL BE IN NEW YORK BEGINNING SEPT 18. SECRETARY VANCE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH HIM; WE SHOULD BY THEN HAVE GOOD FEEL FOR PAK REACTION AND/OR ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS.

D. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, LE GOURRIEREC, HAS RETURNED FROM CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS IN WHICH NEW PROPOSAL WAS BRIEFED TO HIM. HE HAS FELT ME OUT PRIVATELY AND I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED I AM AWARE OF A NEW PROPOSAL. IN CAUTIOUS WAY HE HAS HOPED THAT US SIDE IS HOLDING MATTER CLOSELY, HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT GOP REACTION, AND HAS ASKED ABOUT US PLANS FOR SUPPORTING THE FRENCH DEMARCHE. EQUALLY GINGERLY, I HAVE ASSURED HIM THAT MATTER IS VERY CLOSE-HOLD, THAT USG IS CONSIDERING ALL ASPECTS, AND THAT PARIS IS BEST PLACE FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND VIEWS.

3. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT THIS TO PARIS.
HUMMEL.
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

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